

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/668,157	YOSHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Usman Khan	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/25/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are pending claim 10 renumbered as allowed claim 1.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Regarding objection to specification provided in the previous office action for failing to provide a descriptive title. Applicant has amended the title of the invention to overcome the objection to the specification.

Regarding objection to drawings provided in the previous office action. Applicant has amended the drawings of the invention to overcome the objection to the drawings.

Regarding various objections/rejections to claims 1 – 9 and 11 - 12 provided in the previous office action. Applicant has canceled claims 1 – 9 and 11 - 12 in turn these objections/rejections are withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S NOTE

The examiner would like to point out that in claim 10 lines 8 – 9 have been added via the amendment but the applicant did not underline this new addition to the claim. For future reference the examiner would like to request that the applicant please markup all changes to the claims via amendments for clarity and to avoid delays in

~~precaution:~~
prosecution.

5/29/07

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Regarding claim 10:

In lines 2, 3, 6, 9, and 9 of claim 10 all instances of **"movable element"** have been amended to -- **movable elements**--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10 is allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As stated in the previous office action the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest "A camera unit comprising: a plurality of movable element holding a plurality of lenses; a stator supporting the movable element so as to freely move reciprocally along the optical axis of the lens; an image pickup element imaging an image which was image-formed by the lens; a regulating member which regulates movement of the movable element within a movable range thereof; a control unit controlling movement of the movable element in order to detect a position of the movable element by making the movable element abut the regulating member; wherein a first groove portion which is formed along the optical

axis of the lenses and in which a basic end portion thereof is provided at the object side is formed at a first movable element among said plurality of movable elements, and a second groove portion which is formed along the optical axis of the lenses and in which a basic end portion thereof is provided at the image pickup element side is formed at a second movable element among said plurality of movable elements, and **the regulating member has a first member in which a distal end portion thereof is extendedly provided so as to direct toward the object side along the optical axis of the lenses in the stator, and which is not engaged with the first movable element, and in which the distal end portion thereof abuts the basic end portion of the second groove portion, and a second member in which a distal end portion thereof is extendedly provided so as to direct toward the image pickup element side along the optical axis of the lenses in the stator, and which is not engaged with the second movable element, and in which the distal end portion thereof abuts the basic end portion of the first groove portion".**

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usman Khan whose telephone number is (571) 270-

Art Unit: 2622

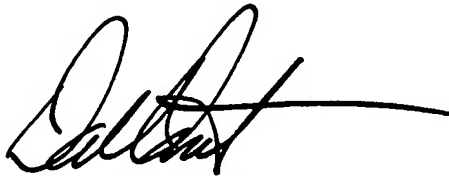
1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 6:45-4:15; Fri 6:45-3:15 or Alt. Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Usman Khan
05/17/07
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER